

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this response. Claims 1-54 have been cancelled and claims 55-103 have been added by way of this response. Claims 55-103 are currently pending, and claims 55, 59 and 82 are independent claims.

PRIORITY DOCUMENTS

Applicants acknowledge and thank the Examiner for the acknowledgement of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and further thank the Examiner for the acknowledgement of the receipt of all the necessary priority documents in this National Stage application from the International Bureau, as shown in the Office Action Summary dated February 27, 2004.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Applicants have amended the specification as shown in the sheets attached hereto. Applicants respectfully assert that no new matter has been added by way of this response, and all such amendments to the specification have been made to correct a minor typographical error.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2, 3, 43 and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 2ND paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-54 and added new claims 55-103.

As such, Applicants respectfully assert that the above rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are now moot and should be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 53 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being inoperative and therefore lacks utility. Specifically, the Examiner contends that claim 53 fails to indicate that the “sealing portion of the piston (i.e. elastomeric member 25) can withstand the temperature of a combusted liquid.”

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-54 and further added claims 55-103.

As such, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 40-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by GB 2,023,715 (hereinafter referred to as ‘715) or GB 2,070,731 (hereinafter referred to as ‘731).

Claims 1-3, 43-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Schmidt et al. (hereinafter referred to as Schmidt).

Claims 1-4, 43-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Fabel et al.

Claims 1-3, 48-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Lngas.

Claims 1-4, 48 and 52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Strubin.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-54 and added claims 55-103 by way of this response. Thus, each of the above-mentioned rejections have been rendered moot. Further, by even a cursory review, none of the prior art documents cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest all of the limitations as recited in independent claims 55, 59 or 82.

Further, Applicants respectfully assert that all of claims 56-58, 60-81, 83-103 are allowable for at least the reasons as discussed above with regard to claims 55, 59 and 82, from which they depend.

As such, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn, and assert that new claims 55-103 are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 53 and 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Strubin.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-54 and added claims 55-103 by way of this response. Thus, the rejection is now moot. Further, as discussed above, by even a cursory review, none of the prior art documents cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest all of the limitations as recited in independent claims 55, 59 or 82.

As such, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn, and further assert that new claims 55-103 are in condition for allowance.

NEW CLAIMS

Applicants have added new claims 55-103 by way of this response, which are believed to be patentable over the prior art. Although somewhat similar arguments to those which may have been previously presented may apply, claims 55-103 should be governed solely by the limitations present therein and should not be limited in any way by limitations or arguments set forth in any other claims. Accordingly, allowance of new claims 55-103 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of above remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and allowance of claims 55-103 is respectfully requested.

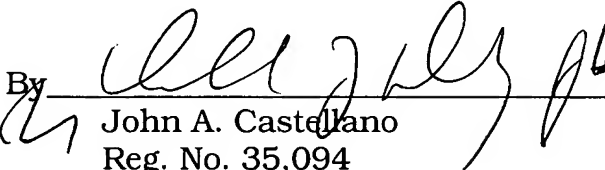
If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Andrew M. Waxman, Reg. No. 56,007, at the number listed below.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$950.00 is attached.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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